

Message Text

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P 030032Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, SOPN, ASEC

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: MOSCOW SIGNAL: REPRESENTATIVE
KOCH'S STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR AUGUST 2
NOON BRIEFING. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ON THIS SUBJECT
AND ANY INQUIRIES PUT TO EMBASSY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO
DEPARTMENT FOR REPLY.
2. QUOTE QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT
ON REPRESENTATIVE KOCH'S DEMAND THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD
CEASE THEIR RADIATION COMPLETELY, THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS
UNCONCERNED ABOUT ITS STAFF, AND THAT IF THE SIGNALS ARE
NOT TERMINATED WE SHOULD CLOSE THE U.S. CONSULATE IN
LENINGRAD, DEMAND THE REMOVAL OF THE SOVIET CONSULATE
IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND IF NECESSARY THREATEN CLOSING OUR
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW?

ANSWER: I HAVE SEEN REPRESENTATIVE KOCH'S STATEMENT AS
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REPORTED BY ONE OF THE WIRE SERVICES. AS I THINK IS WIDE-

LY KNOWN, AS I HAVE STATED FROM THIS PODIUM, AND AS THE SECRETARY HAS STATED REPEATEDLY, THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES IS OUR FIRST CONCERN. WE HAVE ON

NUMEROUS OCCASIONS INSISTED THAT THE SOVIETS TERMINATE THESE TRANSMISSIONS COMPLETELY. WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SIGNAL STRENGTH HAS BEEN REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY (TO LESS THAN 2/10,000THS OF THE U.S. SAFETY STANDARD) OUR GOAL REMAINS THEIR TERMINATION. I THINK MY JULY 7 COMMENTS ADDRESS THAT ISSUE FULLY.

WE REJECT CATEGORICALLY THE CONGRESSMAN'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT "THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T CARE ENOUGH ABOUT ITS STAFF, ABOUT THE HEALTH OF ITS EMPLOYEES TO CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO SUCH RADIATION." SUCH A STATEMENT IS NOT ONLY FACTUALLY INCORRECT BUT IMPLIES A DISREGARD FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES ON THE PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH CANNOT BE SUBSTANTIATED BY THE RECORD OF THE EFFORTS TAKEN THUS FAR.

I WILL HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE CONGRESSMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT WE CLOSE LENINGRAD AND SAN FRANCISCO, AND THAT WE THREATEN A "TEMPORARY CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW."

QUESTION: ARE OTHER RETALIATORY STEPS BEING CONSIDERED?

ANSWER: NO COMMENT. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE AP ARTICLE DATED JULY 31: QUOTE

REP. EDWARD I. KOCH, D-N.Y., SAYS THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INSIST THAT THE SOVIET UNION COMPLETELY CEASE ITS MICROWAVE BOMBARDMENT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

IN REMARKS PREPARED FOR A HOUSE FLOOR SPEECH MONDAY, KOCH SAID THAT IF THE SOVIETS REFUSE TO FULLY HALT THE RADIATION, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONSIDER RETALIATORY STEPS INCLUDING A TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN OF THE MOSCOW EMBASSY.

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THE NEW YORK DEMOCRAT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE MICROWAVES POSE POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS, "THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T CARE ENOUGH ABOUT ITS STAFF, ABOUT THE HEALTH OF ITS EMPLOYEES, TO CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO SUCH RADIATION."

KOCH SAID HE WAS PROMPTED TO URGE A TOUGHER U.S. STANCE ON THE RADIATION WHEN HE LEARNED OF SPECIAL TESTS CON-

DUCTED DURING THE 1960S TO DETECT POSSIBLE GENETIC DAMAGE
IN STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES WHO HAD SERVED IN MOSCOW.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE GENETIC
TESTS, INITIALLY DISCLOSED JULY 26 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS,
WERE RUN SECRETLY WITHOUT THE EMPLOYEES BEING INFORMED
OF THE TESTS' PURPOSE OR RESULTS.

HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT A PANEL OF EXPERTS
DECIDED THAT "NO VALID CONCLUSIONS" COULD BE DRAWN
FROM THE TESTS RESULTS.

KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES SAY THE SOVIET MICROWAVE BEAMS ARE
INTENDED TO FOIL U.S. ELECTRONIC SNOOPING DEVICES
MOUNTED ON THE ROOF OF THE 10-STORY EMBASSY.

BUT KOCH ARGUED THAT "I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MONITORING
DEVICES, IF THEY EXIST, VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW.
CERTAINLY THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE NO CHARGES OF
ILLEGALITY."

HE SAID THAT IN ANY CASE, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT
PERMIT THE SOVIETS TO "TAKE ACTION WHICH THREATENS THE
SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF."

KOCH SAID THAT TO PRESS FOR A COMPLETE HALT TO THE
RADIATION, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ADOPT A SERIES
OF STEPS BEGINNING WITH WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. CONSULATE
IN LENINGRAD--AND CORRESPONDING REMOVAL OF THE SOVIET
CONSULATE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THESE STEPS SHOULD CULMINATE, IF NECESSARY, IN TEMPORARY
CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, THE
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CONGRESSMAN SAID.

KOCH STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A
FORMAL RUPTURE OF U.S.-SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
"WE SHOULD STATE AT THAT TIME THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO
REOPEN THE EMBASSY WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE RADIATION
STOPS." END QUOTE. HABIB

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